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1. The Committee for Trade Relations between Belgium, Eastern Europe and the USSR was created in 1948 at the instigation of members of the Belgian Association for the Far East. The purpose of this committee is to obtain for Belgian business firms as much information as possible on the economy, industry and finance of the USSR, its satellites and the Soviet Zone of Germany.

2. The Committee draws information from documents published in the United States and Great Britain as well as in Eastern Europe. The data compiled are disseminated to Belgian member firms in a monthly brochure, and a two-way exchange of information is also maintained with the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

3. Joseph Hers, a former Administrator Delegate of BRUFINA*, is the Secretary-General of the Committee. He gained experience in Eastern commercial affairs while serving in China as the general agent for the Societe Belge d'Entreprise en Chine, an affiliate of the Societe Generale de Belgique. In Belgium he is in touch with the various financial, political and diplomatic circles, and he is sometimes invited to receptions of the Soviet Embassy. He is frequently in close contact with Belgian commercial missions in the USSR or with the representatives of large Belgian firms who travel to the Soviet Union to conclude negotiations.

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*_____ comment. BRUFINA (Societe de Bruxelles pour la Finance et l'Industrie) is a very large Belgian financial combine.

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